

few remarks. The patient was a young man of twenty-six. The hypertrophy of the upper lip and the fulness of the cheeks were the most prominent features when the mouth was closed, but upon opening it a remarkable condition of the gums was at once visible, and the open mouth reminded one of the mouth of a hippopotamus or rhinoceros on a small scale. The history was that the enlargement of the gums was first noticed four years ago, when the patient went to the Middlesex Hospital and was admitted under the late Mr. Hulke. I am enabled by the kindness of Mr. Storer Bennett to show you two casts which he took at that time, and which show comparatively slight hypertrophy of the gums and no displacement of the teeth. Mr. Hulke cut away the hypertrophied gums of both jaws, and the patient left the hospital relieved. Three months afterward she noticed that the growth had recommenced, and though it has steadily made progress for the last three years, he has had no further advice for it. On admission here the external deformity was well marked, and on opening the mouth the gums of both jaws were seen to be enormously hypertrophied, and most of the teeth to be loosened and displaced. The palate looked at first like a cleft palate, but this was due to the hypertrophied gum on each side covering the palate nearly to the median line, where a small interval was left. This condition I have met with before, and I show you a cast of the mouth of a young lady who consulted me ten years ago, in whom a similar condition existed. As the parts are evidently very vascular, and as I knew by previous experience of similar cases that the bleeding would be free, I took the precaution of having the patient in the recumbent position, with his head dependent over the operating table. I then rapidly extracted all the loose teeth of the upper jaw, leaving only the two canines, which were firm, and cut away with scissors the hypertrophied gum down to the alveolus, the edge of which I removed with bone forceps. The bleeding was free, and especially from the folds which enveloped the palate, but was stopped partly by the use of Paquelin's cautery, and partly by plugging the sockets of the teeth. The patient made a good recovery, and a fortnight later I performed a similar operation on the lower jaw, removing all the loose teeth except the canines and bicuspsids, and clearing away freely the hypertrophied gums. The patient's condition now, two months after the operation, is very satisfactory, the gums being in a healthy condition, and there being nothing abnormal beyond a little looseness of the mucous membrane of the lips. A microscopical examination of the parts removed, by Mr. Drew, showed that the mucous membrane covering the growth was healthy, the bulk of it being composed of delicate bundles of wavy fibrous tissue, which interlaced. Between the bundles were numerous cells, in some places